

## ***APPENDIX B***

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***QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON I&RS REGULATIONS***

- Q1: How long have the regulations for Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) been in effect?
- A1: The State Board of Education adopted new rules to provide district boards of education with standards for the delivery of intervention and referral services (N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7) in *April 2001*. These rules *replaced* the preceding regulations that required schools to provide a program of Intervention and Referral Service for General Education Pupils (N.J.A.C. 6:26) adopted by the State Board of Education in July 1994, which *replaced* the regulations that required the establishment of Pupil Assistance Committees (PACs) (N.J.A.C. 6:26) in all public school buildings adopted by the State Board of Education in July 1992.
- Q2: Are schools required to adopt a team or committee structure to perform the functions and services required under N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7?
- A2: Yes. District boards of education are required to establish and implement a *coordinated system* in each school building and to choose an appropriate *multidisciplinary team approach* for planning and delivering the services required under N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7. Collaborative team approaches that feature *structured and collegial planning, decision making and problem solving processes*, and that are *fully integrated into the educational program*, have proven to be effective in providing the required intervention and referral services for students' learning, behavior and health problems. Therefore, schools should establish building-based processes and structures that feature *collaboration* as the foundation for planning, organizing and implementing programs of intervention and referral services to *assist students* who are experiencing learning, behavior or health difficulties and to *assist staff* who have difficulties in addressing students' learning, behavior or health needs.
- Q3: Are programs of I&RS limited to addressing only academic concerns?
- A3: Programs of I&RS are intended to address the full range of issues (i.e., *academic, behavior and health*) that may interfere with student

**Questions and Answers on I&RS Regulations, continued**

achievement of high academic standards in safe and disciplined learning environments.

Q4: Are programs of I&RS considered special education or general education programs?

A4: The school-based program of I&RS is an ancillary student support service for helping staff and parents address the complete spectrum of student learning, behavior and health problems in the *general education program*, with an emphasis on *early identification and intervention* of problems at the elementary, middle and high school levels. The scope of I&RS programs is much broader than the limited function of pre-referral interventions to the Child Study Team (CST).

Under N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1(a)2i, however, teams *may* plan and provide intervention and referral services for students who have been determined to be in need of special education programs and services. As appropriate, the intervention and referral services provided for students with learning disabilities are to be coordinated with the student's Individualized Education Program team.

Q5: Are schools required to involve parents in the I&RS process?

A5: Yes. Under N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2(a)6, schools are required to *actively* involve parents or guardians in both the development and implementation of intervention and referral services action plans when the building I&RS system is providing assistance on behalf of parents' children.